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Advancement of women

Cameroon:* draft resolution

Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998 and 56/128 of 19 December 2001, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007, 52/2 of 7 March 2008 and 54/7 of 12 March 2010 and all other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] together with the Optional Protocols thereto, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration[3] and Platform for Action,[4] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[5] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[6] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Development[7] and their five-, ten- and fifteen-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration[8] and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit[9] and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",

Recalling the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights[10] on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also the decision of the African Union, adopted in Malabo on 1 July 2011, to support the adoption of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of a resolution banning female genital mutilation,[11]

Recalling further the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session[12] that the Economic and Social Council recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a decision to consider the issue of ending female genital mutilation at its sixty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled "Advancement of women",[13]

Recognizing that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible abuse that affects about one hundred to one hundred and forty million women and girls alive today, and that each year a further three million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilation, constitutes a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, which can increase their vulnerability to HIV and may have adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes as well as fatal consequences for the mother and the newborn, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including men, women and girls,

Recognizing that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of women and girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Recognizing also that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the database on violence against women will contribute to addressing the elimination of female genital mutilation,

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[7] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[9] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

[11] See African Union, documents Assembly/AU/12 (XVII) Add.5.

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* (E/2010/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[13] See Economic and Social Council decision 2012/248.

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilation, in particular the commitment of ten United Nations agencies announced in their joint statement of 27 February 2008, as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund to accelerate the elimination of the practice,

Deeply concerned that, despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts and the focus on the abandonment of female genital mutilation, the practice continues to be prevalent in all regions of the world,

Deeply concerned also that a tremendous gap in resources continues to exist and that the shortfall in funding has severely limited the scope and pace of programmes and activities for the elimination of female genital mutilation,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation,[14]

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] as well as their commitments to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[15] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[6] the Beijing Platform for Action[4] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[5] and of the special session of the General Assembly on children;[16]

2. *Calls upon* States to enhance awareness-raising, education and training in order to ensure that all key actors, Government officials including law-enforcement and judicial personnel and immigration officials, health-care providers, religious and community leaders, teachers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular all forms of female genital mutilation, that negatively affect girls;

3. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful practices, especially female genital mutilation, and to engage community and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end those practices;

4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, and to take all necessary measures, including enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and to protect women and girls from this form of violence, and to end impunity;

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[14] E/CN.6/2012/8.

[15] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[16] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

5. *Also urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the eradication of female genital mutilation, and further urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation and those at risk, including by developing social and psychological support services and care, and to take measures to improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to the practice;

6. *Further urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by, as appropriate, reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

7. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on the elimination of female genital mutilation are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope and incorporate clear targets and indicators for the effective monitoring, impact assessment and coordination of programmes among all stakeholders;

8. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities in order to protect girls from female genital mutilation, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

9. *Calls upon* States to develop information and awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to systematically reach the general public, relevant professionals, families and communities, including through the media and featuring television and radio discussions, on the elimination of female genital mutilation;

10. *Urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, coordinated and systematic approach based on human rights and gender-equality principles in providing education and training to families, community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of women and girls in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilation;

11. *Further urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties or as signatories to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls;

12. *Calls upon* States to develop policies and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of these legislative frameworks;

13. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on female genital mutilation and to develop indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice;

14. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating (abandoning) female genital mutilation;

15. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilation, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders and relevant professionals, and ensure that they provide competent, supportive services and care to women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilation and compel them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe women or girls are at risk;

16. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilation, programmes related to an alternative livelihood for traditional practitioners of female genital mutilation;

17. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources and technical assistance, targeted innovative programmes that address the needs and priorities of women and girls at risk of or subjected to female genital mutilation;

18. *Also calls upon* the international community to strongly support a second phase of the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, which is currently due to end in December 2013, including increased financial support for programmes;

19. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilation in a number of countries and that a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels could lead to female genital mutilation being eliminated, with some of the main achievements being obtained in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

20. *Encourages* men and boys to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

21. *Calls upon* States, United Nations entities, civil society and all stakeholders to observe 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilations and to use this day to enhance awareness-raising campaigns and to take concrete actions against female genital mutilation;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies for the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account

the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate, and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

23. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, an in-depth multidisciplinary report on the root causes of and factors contributing to the practice of female genital mutilation, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States and other relevant stakeholders.